

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11-13, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 36, 37 and 45-47 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, 13, 23, 27, 31, 36, 37 and 46 have been amended. Claims 24 and 29 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the remarks to follow is requested.

The Examiner states (p. 2, item 2) that claims 46 and 47 are directed to Species D, arbitrarily associated with Figure 4, and that as a result of Applicants having received an action on the merits with respect to Species F, arbitrarily associated with Figure 6, claims 46 and 47 are withdrawn from further consideration. The Examiner is clearly mistaken.

Claim 46 is clearly associated at least with at least Figure 6 (see, e.g., Figure 6). There is no explicit depiction of "exposing the first and second solder balls to bonding conditions effective to (i) melt each of the first and second balls of solder and then (ii) cool each of the first and second molten balls of solder to bond each of the first and second balls of solder with their associated first and second bond pads" in Figure 4 (see, e.g., Figure 4). There is explicit support for the recitation of claim 46 in Figure 6 (see, e.g., Figure 6).

Similarly, claim 47 is clearly associated at least with at least Figure 6 (see, e.g., Figure 6). There is no explicit depiction that "exposing comprises sequentially laser-bonding each of the first and second balls of solder" as recited in claim 47 in Figure 4 (see e.g., Figure 4). There is

explicit support for the recitation of claim 47 in Figure 6 (see, e.g., Figure 6).

Accordingly, the Examiner's indication that claims 46 and 47 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention is clearly in error and should be rescinded.

Additionally, the Examiner states (p. 2, item 3) that claim 12 has suddenly become associated with "Species D, Figure 4, there being no allowable generic or linking claim." The Examiner has provided no less than three Office Actions (dated, respectively, September 23, 1999; Dec. 9, 1999; and May 22, 2000), each clearly identifying claim 12, which has not been amended other than to address minor informalities, as being within the ambit of the elected species. Moreover, in the Office Action dated September 23, 1999, the Examiner clearly identifies claim 12 as being generic (see p. 3, item 5, identifying claims 1-3, 6, 11-13, 20, 23, 24, 27, 29-31 and 36 as being generic). In the event that the Examiner has found new distinctions amongst the various species, the Examiner needs to place these distinctions and any associated reasoning on the record. The Examiner has failed to do so. As a result, the Examiner's Action is not complete.

Further, in the event that the Examiner takes the position that claims 12, 46 and 47 are non-allowable over the art of record, the Examiner must make a non-final rejection in the event that the Examiner still finds such claims to be not allowable (see MPEP §707.07, entitled

"Completeness and Clarity of Examiner's Action".) This MPEP section cites 37 CFR §1.104, entitled "Nature of examination." which in turn states, in subsection (b), entitled "Completeness of examiner's action." that "The examiner's action will be complete as to all matters, except that in appropriate circumstances, such as misjoinder of invention, fundamental defects in the application, and the like, the action of the examiner may be limited to such matters before further action is made.". The Examiner's present action clearly fails to meet the criteria for completeness outlined in MPEP §707.07 and 37 CFR §1.104.

Claims 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 36 and 37 have been amended to address concerns noted in the Office Action, however, these amendments do not alter the scope of the claims.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 20, 22-24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Trabucco, U.S. Patent No. 5,899,737. Claims 24 and 29 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 13, 23, 27, 31 and 46 have been amended to include recitation of "dipping the substrate into a volume of the balls of solder", which is not taught or disclosed by Trabucco. The amendments to claims are supported at least by text appearing at p. 4, line 9 through p. 9, line 15, and especially by p. 5, lines 20-24, of the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.



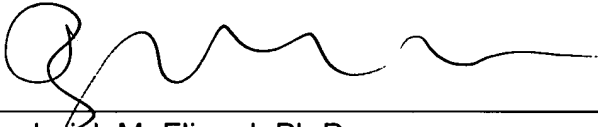
Trabucco thus does not anticipate the invention as recited in any of Applicant's independent claims. For at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 1, 3, 13, 23, 27, 31 and 46 and claims dependent therefrom should be withdrawn, and these claims should be allowed.

Dependent claims 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 22, 26, 30, 36, 37, 45 and 47 are allowable as depending from allowable base claims and for their own recited features which are neither shown nor suggested by the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11-13, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 36, 37 and 45-47 is requested. The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned in the event that the next Office Action is one other than a Notice of Allowance. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

Respectfully submitted,

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